

Welcome to the online
version of the April
FORERUNNER.

If you are reading this
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need a copy mailed to
you, please call (419)
836-5514 or email the
office at
office@stjohnwilliston.org.

FORERUNNER

Volume 0651
Issue 276
April 2019

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Ask the Pastor

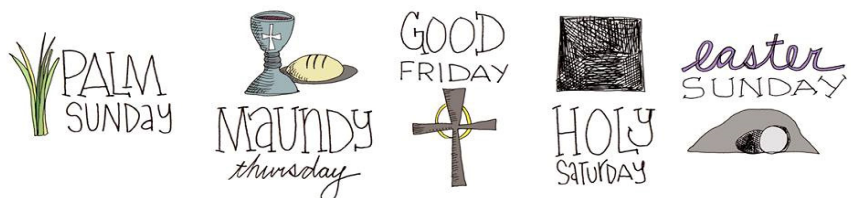
"Why is Easter (Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, and Lent in general) so late this year?"

First some set up... The season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday (March 6th this year) and concludes on Easter (April 21st). The season of Lent represents the forty days Christ spent in the wilderness immediately following his baptism. But... if you actually count them, you will see that there are forty-SIX days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. The discrepancy occurs because all Sundays – not just Easter Sunday – are days to celebrate Christ's Resurrection. Christians in the early church were therefore forbidden to fast and do other forms of penance on those Holy days. Ergo, the six Sundays in Lent are excluded from the "regular" Lenten observances, leaving us with forty days.

Now to actually answer the question... Easter is what we call a "moveable feast". It does not occur on the same date every year. (Thus associated Holy Days like Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Pentecost, etc. are also "moveable" based on the date of Easter.) The date for Easter was determined by the Council of Nicaea (325 AD); they set the date of Easter as the Sunday following the full moon that falls on or after the spring equinox (which happened to be March 20th this year). But here's where things get confusing (or perhaps more confusing)... This year, the full moon was on the same day as the spring equinox. So strictly following the rules would mean Easter *should* have been on March 24th, but of course it wasn't. So what going on? The full moon used to determine the date of Easter is not the astronomical full moon (the one we observe by looking in the night sky) but an ecclesiastical moon (determined from tables) that keeps, more or less, in step with the astronomical moon. And, on the astrological calendar the date of the equinox actually changes; it can be anywhere between March 19 and 21, but on the church calendar, the equinox is always March 21st. (And I thank God for Google so I don't have to go through all this to figure out the date of Easter each year.)

The bottom line is that Easter can never occur before March 22nd or later than April 25th. So this year, with Easter on the 21st of April, it's pretty late. And, in case you were curious, Easter will fall on its latest date April 25th in 2038.

If you would like to submit a question for "Ask the Pastor", Biblical, theological, church related, anything you have been dying to ask a pastor, you can hand me a note, ask me after church, send an e-mail, or sneak into the church after dark and anonymously slide a sealed envelope under my office door. If I answer your question in print, I will not include your name unless you explicitly ask me to.





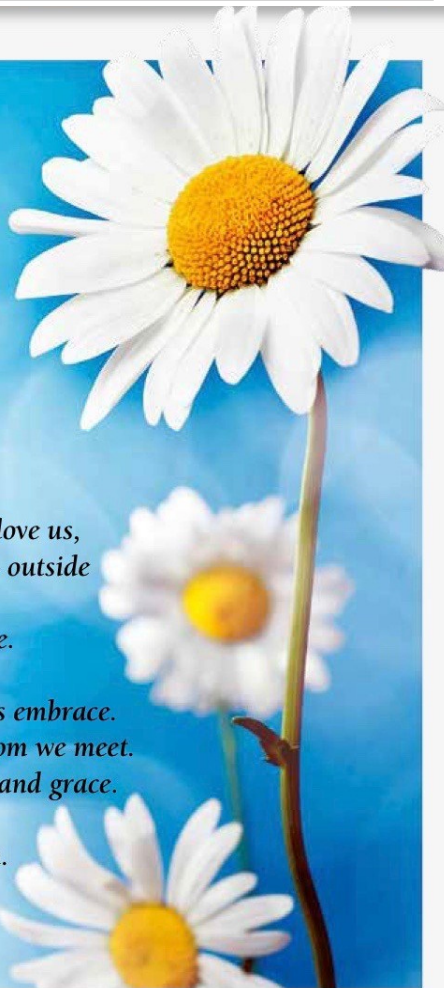
Genoa Area Community Food Pantry

****Needs for April –Boxed Mac & Cheese,
canned pasta (like Spaghetti-os)
Please no food expired items.**

Pray this month

Lord God,
We see signs of new life all around us
as the days continue to grow longer.
Thank you for the buds and the blossom;
the grass and the warmth of the sunshine.
May we remember that you have created us and love us,
and even if it doesn't feel like spring sometimes – outside
or in our hearts –
we can find newness of life through your presence.
Please help us to notice the beauty around us:
a child's smile, a work of art, an insect, a friend's embrace.
May we also share beauty and life with those whom we meet.
Help us to glorify you as we promote peace, love and grace.
May we speak truth in love
and forgive those who wrong us, by your strength.
We love you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

Amy Boucher Pye



WORSHIP SERVICES

Available on
CD

***Did you know that our Saturday Worship Services are
recorded on CDs?***

***If you live locally but are unable to make it to service
because you are homebound or unable to attend church
for other reasons and would like to hear the service, just
call the office at 419-836-5514.***

***We will put you on the list to receive a CD. You will
need a CD player, but if you do not have one-just let the
office know and we will make sure one is made
available.***

The *Forerunner*

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by St. John Lutheran Church
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Pastor Shawn O'Brien

Home Telephone:

419-972-4003

Email:

pastorobrien

@stjohnwilliston.org

Worship at St. John

Saturday at 5:00 PM

Sunday School 8:30 AM

Sunday Worship 9:45 AM

Deadline for the

MAY 2019 newsletter is

Monday, April 22, 2019 9AM

**Please send articles and/or
information to**

office@stjohnwilliston.org.



**"Creating and nurturing life changing
relationships based on the love of God
in Jesus Christ, so that we may grow
in faith, serve God and
serve our neighbor."**



LisaAnne Gregg

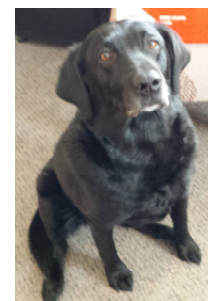
Office Administrator

9am—3pm

Mon. thru Fri.

(419) 836-5514

office@stjohnwilliston.org



*Bella
Fredericksen*

*The Greeter of
St. John*



In Memory of Clarence Diefenthaler

Rich and Barb Gottschalk
Bob Fahle
Vivian Chambers
Doris and Wendy Shields

In Memory of Clyde Sandrock

Thrivent Financial
Mary Schimming

In Memory of Marian Damschroder

Merle and Shirley Berger

In Memory of Milton Schimming

Mary Schimming

In Memory of Dad

Mark and Lucy Witt

In Memory of Jennifer Johnson

Roland and Janice Sandrock

In Memory of Dr. Edward Tschappat, Jr.

Mark and Lucy Witt

In Memory of Lori Wilka

Lowell and Diane Hartman
Edna Sandrock
Marilyn Sandrock & Carolyn Lasseter

If your name or memorial has been inadvertently left off the list,
please let the office know.

Grateful Hearts 

Dear Pastor O'Brien, Quilters, Friends and Family,

Thank you all for all for your positive thoughts, cards, and prayers during my recent "unique" fall! I would especially like to Thank Pastor O'Brien for his visits and the Quilters for the beautiful warm quilt! Your love and kindness is overwhelming. Thank you so kindly

Elaine Traver Gardner

Thank you for your support-

Thank you so much for your generous gift to Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University.

St. Paul regularly expressed thanks for those who supported his ministry. Like Paul, we are thankful for you and thankful to God for your gift in support of Trinity Lutheran Seminary.

The Rev. Kathryn Kleinhans
Trinity Lutheran Seminary

Dear Friends of St. John,

Thank you for your donation to Light House Sober Living!

We greatly appreciate your support and contributions.

The mission of Light House Sober Living is to provide our community with a safe and secure home of hope, healing and life for persons in recovery.

It is only with the help from generous people like you that we can achieve our mission.

Warm Wishes to you and Thank You!

Kenn Bower, Jr.-Executive Director

Thanks to our hands-on helpers!

Thank you to those who help every month to get the Forerunner ready for mailing!

Allen Harder, Terry Gast, Linda Schlievert, Marilyn Sandrock, Carolyn Lasseter, Madelayne Saionzkowski and Audrey Milbrodt.

Thank you, Neighbors!

On behalf of the LIGHT Neighborhood Pantry at Elliston Zion, I would like to thank my St. John Family for your support of our Neighborhood Pantry and our mission. We are serving an average of 20-30 families every month by providing food, personal items and prayer to those who are struggling in our community.

Again, thank you for your continued love and support!

LisaAnne Gregg

Thank You!

Thank you for your generous donation we received from your Souper Bowl of Caring. It is so overwhelming and we are so grateful. Thank you for all you do for our pantry.

Genoa Area Food Pantry

Circle and Board Meetings

ESTHER CIRCLE: Tuesday, April 2, 7:30 p.m.

Bible Study: Doris Titgemeyer

Hostesses: Wilma Smithers & Evalyn Witty

REBEKAH CIRCLE: Tuesday, April 2, 7:30 p.m.

Bible Study: Nancy Strohscher

DORCAS CIRCLE: Thursday, April 4, 1:30 p.m.

Bible Study: Group study

WELCA Board Meeting April 8, 7:00 p.m.

Lenten Soup & Salad Buffet

Wednesday noon, following 11 a.m. service

(Dates, Hostesses)

April 3-Rebekah Circle

April 10- Church Council



Need to talk?

Call Pastor O'Brien or the church office at

419-836-5514 and we will put you in contact with one of your St. John Stephen Ministers.

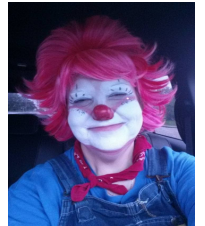
WELCA North Central Conference News North Central Conference Spring Gathering

The North Central Conference Spring Gathering will be held on May 4th, 2019 8:30 Am to Noon at Calvary Lutheran Church, 1930 Bradner Road, Northwood, Ohio 43619.

Pastor Noble will lead us in bible study and the Praise Band from Calvary will provide the morning music.

We will collect an in-kind offering for Lutheran Home of Mercy and articles including toothbrushes, tooth-past, coloring books, markers and crayons.

The "speaker" will be our own Li-Li the Clown and her friend Leslie presenting "You Can't Get There From Here".



Our offering after expenses will be donated to the St. John Stony Ridge Food Pantry and the LIGHT Neighborhood Pantry at Elliston Zion UMC.

Registration is at 8:30 a.m. with the Program to begin at 9:00 a.m.

\$10 Registration Fee includes a light breakfast and lunch.

St. John is responsible for fruit for the breakfast and will need to provide 4 salads and 4 desserts for the lunch.

Hosted by Calvary Lutheran, St. John's Lutheran, Williston, and St. Peter Lutheran Blackberry, Martin, OH.

St. John Prayer Chain is there for you....

"Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive." Matthew 21:22

When there is illness, a special need, or a time of thanksgiving in your family, or among friends or neighbors, you may wish to ask for the prayers of your sisters and brothers at St. John. If such a need arises, call Pastor O'Brien (419-972-4003, cell ph 419-378-1112) or the church office (419-836-5514) who will begin the prayer chain.

Please keep your message to the minimum to avoid any errors in passing it on.

Thank you!

Happening @ St. John!



**COMING IN JUNE!
"TO MARS AND
BEYOND"
VACATION
BIBLE SCHOOL!**



**Did you know....
There is an adult
bible study class
that meets
Mondays at
10:00 am?**

*This study is lead
by Pastor O'Brien
and concentrates
on the lectionary
lessons for the
upcoming week.
No experience
needed and all are
welcome!
Bring your bible!*



The "Blanket Ladies" gather to make quilts on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am.

Bed sheets (Queen size) are needed for quilt backings. Donations may be left in the box outside the church office.

Come join us! The coffee is on and you only need to know how to tie a knot!



**Williston Encounter is coming!
Starting June 5th!
Join St. John and the whole community for
fun, food and fellowship!
Every Weds. at Noon in June and July!
Kids of ALL ages are welcome!**

Lenten Worship Schedule at St. John-Williston

I AM



➤ A Worship Series on ➤
the "I AM" Statements of Jesus

Weds. April 3rd* 11 AM
"I Am the Resurrection"

Pastor Stephen Bull

Worship at 11:00 am-Lenten Luncheon
following service
by Rebekah Circle

*

Weds. April 10th* 11 AM
"I am the Vine"

Pastor Mark Wentz

Worship at 11:00 am-Lenten Luncheon
following service
by Church Council

The offerings from this years Lenten worship services will be split between the
Luther Home of Mercy (to purchase new beds) and
Salem Lutheran Church (downtown) "Just Pancakes" weekly meal program.



Annual Youth Chicken Paprikash Dinner and Craft Auction

Saturday, April 6, 2019
6:00 PM (until sold out)
Tickets \$10.00
(Sold in advance)

**Great Food!
Great Cause!**



**Join us on Thursday, April 18 at 7:00 PM
for a Seder Meal.**

The Seder Meal was the meal celebrated during Passover by Jews to remember and celebrate the story of the Exodus...how God rescued his people from captivity in Egypt and led them into the Promised Land.

It was this meal that Jesus shared with His disciples on the night He was betrayed and was handed over to be crucified.

Christians have celebrated this meal to remember how Jesus served as our Paschal Lamb, the perfect sacrifice, given to rescue us from captivity and deliver us into the freedom of life with God for eternity.

We'd love for you to come and share in this rich and storied meal as we remember and tell the story of God's faithfulness once again.

Please sign up no later than April 11th.

(We will need to know how many places to prepare.)

There will be sign up sheet placed near the elevator in the church and in the Narthex.



St. John Lutheran Church
21140 W. Toledo Street in Williston

Saturday, April 20, 2019 at 11:00 AM

Children up to 5th grade are welcome!

Egg Hunt, Goodie bags, Easter Basket drawing,
Face Painting, Candy and Fun!

****Candy is needed. Please donate individual wrapped candy pieces small enough to fit in an egg. They can be left at the office or in the Sunday School room. Thank you!**

He is Risen

Join us this Easter as we
celebrate Our Risen Lord!

Good Friday Worship 7:00 PM

Community Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 20th at 11:00 AM

Saturday Easter Worship
April 20th 5:00 PM

Easter Sun. Breakfast 8:30 AM

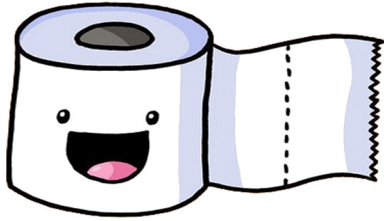
Easter Sun. Worship 9:45 AM

St. John Lutheran Church
21140 W. Toledo St. (SR 579)
Williston, OH
www.stjohnwilliston.org

**Join us for
breakfast on
Easter
Sunday at
8:30 AM.**

Faith Practice

Number Four



Let's Build a Wall!!

Did you know??

On a recent trip to deliver donated items to neighboring missions in downtown Toledo, we were told that the one item that is needed the most (*but donated the least*) by local missions and pantries is

Toilet paper!

Missions in Toledo, at times, have had to limit the amount of bathroom tissue given to each family to **ONE ROLL PER FAMILY per WEEK!**

ONE ROLL PER WEEK for a whole family!

As part of our pledge to serve beyond the walls of St. John, we will be joining with other churches to share our bounty and

BUILD A WALL of BATHROOM TISSUE!

How can you help? It's simple....just pick up an extra pack of bathroom tissue when you are shopping! 4 packs are preferred but any size is greatly appreciated!

Then, drop it off at church.

When we have a supply, we will take it to The Marketplace for All near St. Paul's Community Center (downtown), Helping Hands of St. Louis (east side) and Salem Lutheran Church Ministries (Huron St.).

Thank you for being a blessing to others in need!

Any questions? Just stop in/call the office or call Cheryl Berger.

Our Seven Faith Practices

I will strive to...

1. **PRAY** daily
2. **WORSHIP** weekly
3. **READ** and study the Bible
4. **SERVE** at and beyond St. John
5. **INVITE** others into a loving relationship with Jesus
6. **GIVE** of my time, talents, and resources
7. **ENCOURAGE** spiritual growth in others

Adult Mission Trip

August 15-21, 2019

Rocky Boy Reservation

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Box Elder, Montana

See Pastor for details!

Genoa Food Pantry



The food pantry is open on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM at the Apostolic Restoration Center 303 W. 4th Street Genoa, Ohio 43430 (former Genoa Jr. High building)



Genoa Community Food Pantry
Needs for April
Boxed Mac & Cheese and
Canned Pasta (like Spaghetti O's)

Thank You

FOR YOUR HELP

Thank you for everyone that helped at the food pantry on Saturday March 16. We could not do this project without all of the great people.

Linda Schlievert
Richard & Jane Phillips
Margaret Berger
Carol Vargo
Beverly Harder
Karry & Alea Loch
Meghan Glenn
Jenny & Mallory Nelson

Ben Sr & Katie Sommers
Ben, Kim, Anna & Ben Sommers
Kirsten Sargent
Emma Melter
Carole Beamer
Bobby Bench
Allison Bench
Savannah Barlage
Pastor O'Brien & Shane
Marilyn Sandrock
Carolyn Lasseter
Becky Tank
Cindy Hartman



April Stewardship Prayer

*Lord, we know that all we have comes from you.
Teach us to share willingly our time, talents,
prayer and resources with
a joyful heart. Amen.*

April Stewardship Page

April Stewardship Verse

**Bring the full tithe into the storehouse,
so that there may be food in my house,
and thus put me to the test, says
the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open
the windows of heaven for you and pour
down for you an overflowing blessing.**

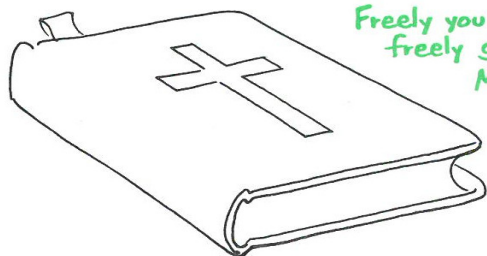
Malachi 3:10

EVERYTHING we have



is given to us by **GOD**

A Christian steward serves **GOD**
out of love and gratitude for these gifts
knowing that it's **NOT** how much we have but
what we **DO** with **WHAT WE HAVE**
that is important.



Freely you have received;
freely give.
Matt. 10:8

Mark your calendar and save your
spare change for

Noisy Offering Weekends!

April 27/28 and May 25/26.

Proceeds will benefit the
2019 Vacation Bible School
"To Mars and Beyond!"



Give, and it
will be given to
you.

Luke 6:38

Growing in Faith and Service

St. John Youth Group News

April, 2019

Chicken Paprikash Dinner

Carol Vargo (*Payton Donnelly's grandma*) and Alice Witt have volunteered once again to help the youth raise funds for the 2021 Youth Gathering by making chicken paprikash for over 150 people on Saturday, April 6th. The Eighth Graders will be helping make the paprikash noodles on Thursday April 4th. The day of the event we will need volunteers to help set up tables, in addition to people to help prepare, serve, and clean up. We will serve dinner from 6:00 (after worship) until we are sold out. Obviously we will need helpers before and after those times. Contact Tracy Donnelly to find out how to help.



...and Craft Auction

As part of our Chicken Paprikash Fundraiser we will be having a craft auction; items made by students and/or parents to be auctioned off. If you are willing to donate an item or would like more information, please contact Pam LaRue.

High School Bible Study

Meets in the church lounge at 6:00 PM. Snacks will be provided. Any questions, contact Stef Neuman.

Just Pancakes

Our April "Year of Service" activity will be serving pancakes at Salem Lutheran Church (1127 N Huron St, Toledo) on Saturday April 27. We are to be at Salem between 7:00 and 7:30am. This event is open to the entire congregation. (Youth younger than 6th grade must be accompanied by a parent.) If you are able to help, sign-up outside of Pastor O'Brien's office door with the number of people attending so we can plan. Any questions, contact Pastor O'Brien

CONFIRMATION SATURDAY: May 18, 2019

Mark Your Calendar!

Upcoming Youth Activities/Events

April 4 – Paprikash Noodle Making
(8th graders meet in the basement kitchen)

April 6 – Chicken Paprikash Dinner
(fundraiser for the 2021 Youth Gathering)

April 20 – Easter Egg Hunt
(a good opportunity for community service/confirmation service points)



April 21 – Easter Breakfast
(another good opportunity for community service/confirmation service points)

April 27 – Just Pancakes
(Our April—Year of Service event. There is a sign-up sheet with additional information near Pastor O'Brien's office door. This is an excellent opportunity for community service/confirmation service points)

April 28 – Confirmation Dinner
(This is a special invitation only event for our 8th grade confirmation students.)

May 13 – Confirmation Exit Interviews
(interviews will be scheduled in class)

June 29-July 3, 2021– ELCA National Youth Gathering
Minneapolis, Minnesota
(This will be open to CURRENT 6th graders through HS Juniors)

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

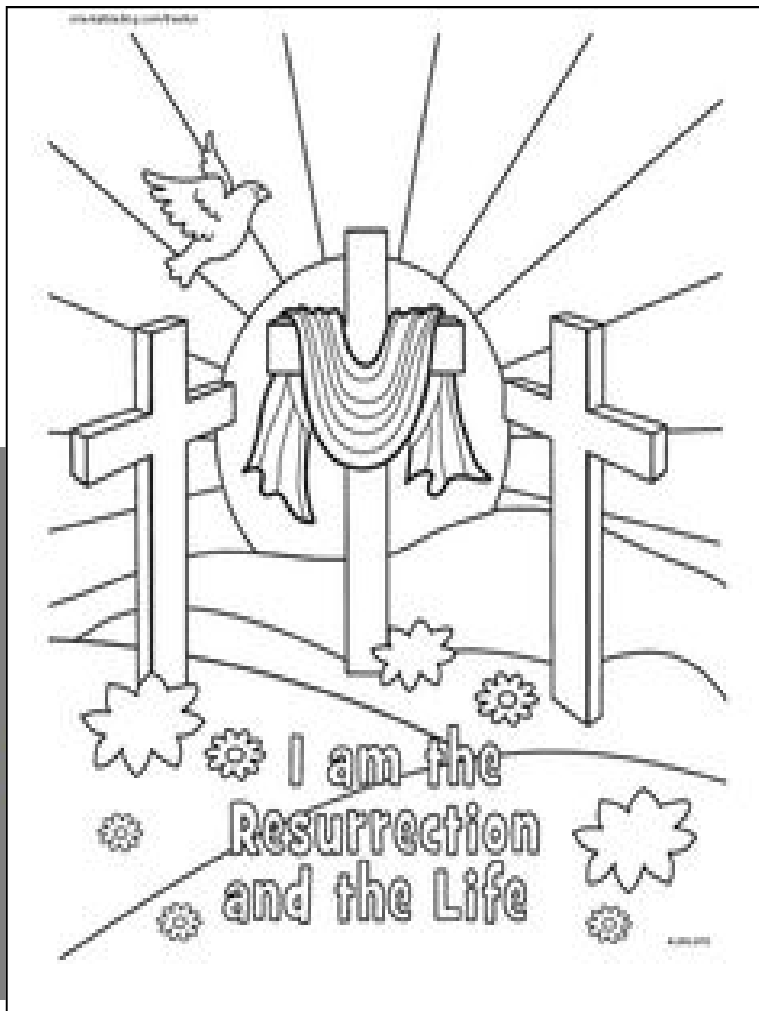
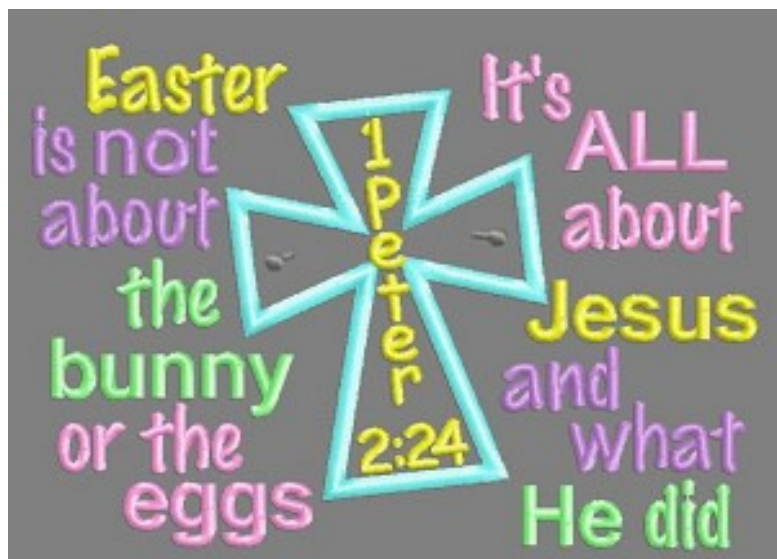
Don't forget to turn in Sermon Note and Service Point forms to your confirmation teacher. Also remember your one Church council visit. They meet on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00. Question forms for your visit are available in the 8th grade confirmation room.

Youth/Parents: If you have an idea for an activity, please contact Pastor O'Brien and he will help you make it happen.

CONNECTING KIDS TO CHRIST

The Connection

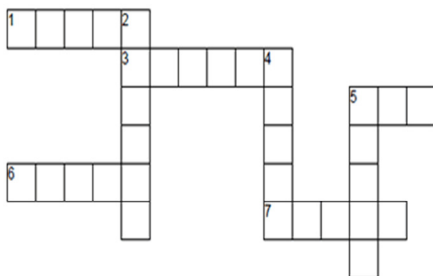
St. John Kid's Page



I've Just Seen Jesus

Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). John 20:16 (NIV)

Complete the activity below. The words in the puzzle are found in John 20:1-18.



ACROSS

1. The color of snow; the opposite of black
3. Messengers from heaven
5. To produce tears; to weep
6. Not dead
7. To have nothing inside

DOWN

2. The day we celebrate Jesus' resurrection
4. What was used to cover the entrance to Jesus' tomb
5. A piece of fabric made by weaving cotton, wool, or other fibers

EASTER

CLOTH

CRY

EMPTY

ALIVE

WHITE

STONE

ANGELS

H A P P Y +

The gift of God is **E**ternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23

I am the Living One: I was dead, and behold I am **A**live forever and ever! Revelation 1:18

The Father has sent His Son to be the **S**avior of the World. 1 John 4:34

I am the **T**ruth and the Life. John 14:6

God has given us **E**ternal life, and this life is in His Son. 1 John 5:11

Remember Jesus Christ **R**aised from the dead. 2 Timothy 2:8



Scholarships for continuing education are available from St. John Lutheran Church. Applications may be picked up from the church office and are also available on the church's website. **The application deadline for all scholarships is April 28, 2019.** You may return the completed forms to the church office any time before that date. **If you have any questions, please contact a member of the scholarship committee: Pastor O'Brien, Carol Jensen, Deanna Neuman, and Al Brown.**

Below is a brief summary of the scholarships available. The scholarship committee recommends that anyone that has graduated high school within the last five years take a close look at the application requirements. All eligible students are encouraged to apply.

TANK SCHOLARSHIP

- This scholarship was established in 1997 and is provided through the generosity of Carol Tank and the late Robert Tank.
- In order to be eligible for this scholarship, the applicant must be an active voting member of St. John Lutheran Church for at least three years before the start of the college semester that the applicant is applying for this scholarship.
- The applicant must attend a four year accredited college or university.
- The scholarship is a one year scholarship for \$500 that can be applied for by the applicant for their first or second year.
- A second scholarship is available for those attending Capital University.

ST. JOHN SCHOLARSHIP (Lutheran Partners)

- The purpose of this scholarship fund is to aid in the education of our students who will be attending an ELCA related college.
- The applicant must be a voting member of St. John Lutheran Church.
- The grant will be \$500 for each qualified student contingent upon the dollars available in the scholarship fund.

YOUNKER SCHOLARSHIP

- This scholarship began in 2006 and is made available by an annual contribution from the Younker Scholarship Fund and is solely dependent on that annual contribution for the scholarship program to continue.
- The student must be a confirmed church member who is actively involved in the life of the Church and who demonstrates their faith.
- Recipient will be a recent high school graduate. Recent defined as within five years of the date of the beginning of the school year.
- The student will attend either a public or private accredited college or university and be degree seeking.

EARL JOHNSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- This scholarship was established in January 2016 from a portion of Earl's estate bequeathed to St. John Lutheran Church.
- The applicant must be a confirmed St. John member and active in the life of the church during their high school years.
- Scholarship value will be up to \$1,000 and determined by the applicant's church worship attendance as well as church and community activities.
- The applicant must attend either a public or private accredited college or university and be degree seeking.
- Applicants must be a recent high school graduate. Recent shall be defined as within five years of the date of the beginning of the school year.
- Recipients can apply more than once, but can only receive the scholarship once.
- Scholarship recipient and value will be determined by the St. John scholarship committee.

PHYLLIS PARKS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

The Phyllis Parks Scholarship Fund was established in August, 2016 from the estate of Martin Parks bequeathed to St. John Lutheran Church.

- The maximum individual scholarship will be \$1,000.
- The applicant must be a confirmed St. John member and active in the life of the church.
- Special preference will be given to the applicant's church worship attendance.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

ELCA presiding bishop pastoral message on Christ Church mosque shootings

3/15/2019 12:55:00 PM

Dear Church,

Today we awoke to the devastating news of the mass shootings at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand. We join in mourning for the people who were killed and wounded, for their families, for the first responders and grief counselors, and for all whose lives have been shattered today. We know that God is present in the midst of their suffering.

We know that our own Muslim neighbors here in the U.S. are also experiencing grief and fear. Many will wonder whether it is safe to attend Friday prayers today. These are not the kinds of questions that any of us should have to ask ourselves as we seek to live out our religious commitments. Yet, devastatingly, this is also a reality that binds us together as people of faith. As I wrote last November in the wake of the Tree of Life shooting: "Hate-filled violence knows no bounds – whether a Sikh Temple in Oak Creek, a Christian church in Charleston, a Jewish synagogue in Pittsburgh" – and now these mosques in New Zealand.

Together with our ecumenical and inter-religious partners, we stand shoulder to shoulder in condemning hatred, bigotry, racism and violence whenever and wherever it occurs. We do so because all people are made in the image of God. Therefore, as an act of neighborly love, I urge you to reach out to your Muslim neighbors today and in the days to come to ask how you might offer solidarity and support – joining whenever possible with other ecumenical and inter-religious neighbors.

I leave you with the words of Psalm 16:1: "Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge." This is my prayer – for our Muslim neighbors, for the people of Christchurch, and for all who mourn and are afraid. May we see in this devastation the possibility to be Christ's presence with our neighbors in this world – to be present in their suffering and to be partners in God's justice and peace.

In peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop, ELCA



To learn more about the Presiding Bishop, read about current events in the ELCA, discover the ELCA Blog, participate in conversation, use several ELCA resources or to learn more about our faith...visit www.elca.org.



Northwestern Ohio Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



From the desk of....
Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin

Bishop Beaudoin wants to encourage and challenge you to join with the rest of the Northwestern Ohio Synod and read through the entire Bible in One Year. Back in 2004 and 2012, the parishes he was serving read through the Bible in One Year as a community spiritual practice. Scripture is meant to be read in community, so please don't do this alone.

2019 NWOS Daily Bible Readings for April

Dear Friends in Christ,

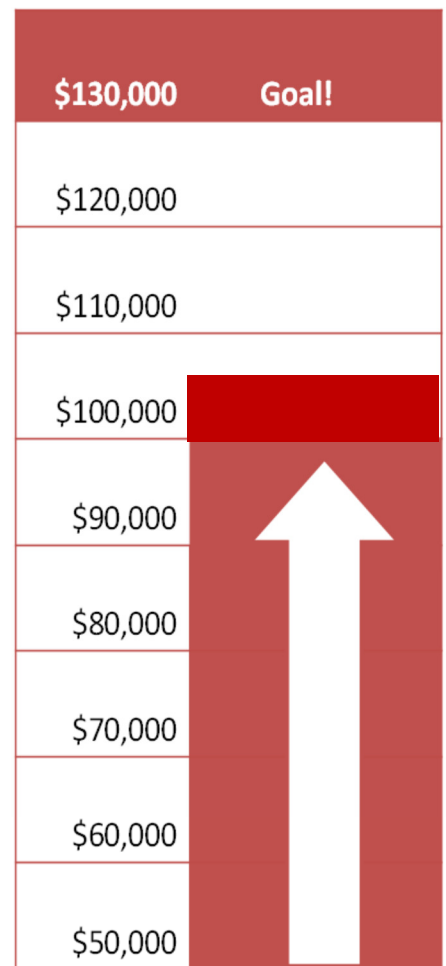
"So, he (Jesus) came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (John 4:5-7). During our pilgrimage to the Holy Land, we stopped in the city of Nablus on the West Bank. We entered St. Photini Greek Orthodox Church, proceeded down to the crypt, and gathered around Jacob's Well. Jacob's Well is deep (over 130 feet), and the water that we drew was cool and sweet. As my daughter Hannah drank from a shared tin cup, I thought about Jesus asking for a drink from this very well, and then shifting the conversation to the promise of "living water".

It was humbling and deeply moving to stand at Jacob's Well, to drink the cool, sweet water, and to remember the promise of Jesus. "The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life" (John 4:14b). Thank you, Jesus, for the gift and promise of Living Water.

During this Year of Scripture, we will aspire to grow as Christian disciples through three distinct practices:

- 1) Bible Reading— see the chart to the right for April Readings
- 2) Bible Reflection to help us to become fluent in the language of sacred scripture. The artists at the Bible Project (available online) do a great job of bringing Scripture to life.
- 3) Bible Study-check out the "Sermon on the Mount" Bible Study at www.nwos-elca.org.

April 1: 1 Samuel 18-20
April 2: 1 Samuel 21-24
April 3: 1 Samuel 25-27
April 4: 1 Samuel 28-31
April 5: 2 Samuel 1-3
April 6: 2 Samuel 4-7
April 7: 2 Samuel 8-12
April 8: 2 Samuel 13-15
April 9: 2 Samuel 16-18
April 10: 2 Samuel 19-21
April 11: 2 Samuel 22-24
April 12: 1 Kings 1-2
April 13: 1 Kings 3-5
April 14: 1 Kings 6-7
April 15: 1 Kings 8-9
April 16: 1 Kings 10-11
April 17: 1 Kings 12-14
April 18: 1 Kings 15-17
April 19: 1 Kings 18-20
April 20: 1 Kings 21-22
April 21: 2 Kings 1-3
April 22: 2 Kings 4-5
April 23: 2 Kings 6-8
April 24: 2 Kings 9-11
April 25: 2 Kings 12-14
April 26: 2 Kings 15-17
April 27: 2 Kings 18-19
April 28: 2 Kings 20-22
April 29: 2 Kings 23-25
April 30: 1 Chronicles 1-2



We are almost there!!!
If you would like to make a special contribution to the Roof Project, just mark “ROOF FUND” on the envelope and place it in the offering.
Thank you for your generous support!!



Online Giving

**Did you know
St. John offers online giving?**

We process giving through VANCO, a nationally recognized leader in church giving.

It's easy, it's secure and you can get started today!

Not online? No problem! Just fill out an authorization form or see LisaAnne in the office.

SERVING HIM
 DON'T JUST GO TO CHURCH;
 BE THE CHURCH.

We need more worship assistants!

*Would you like to help with
communion,
read scripture,
be an usher*

or work in the “sound booth?”

Just let Pastor or the office know.

We would love to show you “the ropes.”

No experience is needed!

Just call the office to sign up!

ELECTRONIC GIVING AUTHORIZATION FORM

St. John Lutheran Church PO Box 235 Williston, OH 43468
www.stjohnwilliston.org (419)836-5144 email: office@stjohnwilliston.org



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		ENVELOPE/DONOR #	DATE
Effective date of authorization: ____/____/____			
Type of authorization: <input type="checkbox"/> New authorization <input type="checkbox"/> Change banking information <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation amount <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue electronic donation <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation date			
Last Name		First Name	
Address			
City		State	Zip
Email Address		Phone #	
DATE OF FIRST DONATION: ____/____/____	FREQUENCY OF DONATION: <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly – DAY ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Monthly – 1 st and 15 th <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 st <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 th	FUNDS: <input type="checkbox"/> General/Operating <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify below) <input type="checkbox"/> Add'l donation to offset fees Total	AMOUNTS: \$ ____ \$ ____ \$ ____ \$ ____
If you would like to designate your giving to another fund not listed: please state your desire here. Thank You.			
CHECKING / SAVINGS	Please debit my donation from my (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #) <input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account (attach a voided check below)		Routing Number: ____ Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3 Account Number: ____ Routing Number Account Number Check Number
	I authorize the above organization to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization. Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____		
CREDIT / DEBIT CARD	Card Brand (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Discover Card		
	Card Number: _____		Expiration Date: _____
	Name on Card: _____		
	Billing Address (if different from above): _____		
	I authorize the above organization to process transactions in accordance with the information above. Signature (as it appears on the card): _____ Date: _____		

If using a checking account, please attach a voided check over the credit/debit card section above.
We do urge you to use a checking or savings account as opposed to a credit card to save transaction fees. Thank you.
Please allow 2-3 business days for processing. Thank you for being a blessing to St. John Lutheran Church.

Scrapbooking Crop Fun-raiser!

benefiting Luther Home of Mercy

Location: Luther Home of Mercy Habilitation Center Gymnasium
5810 N. Main Street, Williston, OH 43468
(See directions on back)

Saturday,
April 13th

9:00 am- 9:00 pm

Call your friends to come have some fun as you join us for a day of friendship, fellowship, scrapbooking, card making or your favorite crafting project. Bring your projects and enjoy time with friends. You can have a day of fun and help Luther Home of Mercy, a non-profit for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Included in your fun day for \$35.00:

- Light continental breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Snacks and bottled water
- Full 8 ft. table space
- Raffle prizes (tickets 6 for \$5)
- Help unloading and loading your supplies

**\$25.00 Registration option
for Half (4 ft.) table space**

Register and pay online at lutherhome.org or make a check payable to Luther Home of Mercy, and mail with registration below to:



Megan O'Brien
5810 N Main St
Williston, OH 43468

Please contact Megan with any
questions at 419-972-4436 or
mobrien@lutherhome.org.

-No Refunds-

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number _____ Email: _____

I need electricity for laptop/Cricut use: Yes _____ No _____ (bring extension cord and power strip just in case)

I would like to be seated near: _____

(We will do our best to accommodate special requests.)

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, April 5th

If you miss the deadline, contact Megan to see if spots are still available.

Council Highlights

What happened at the last meeting?



Council Meeting Highlights– March 21, 2019

Devotions were led by Pastor O'Brien from Bread for the Day, Psalm 63

Pastor's Report: 23 hospital/homebound visit/individual or family meetings, 4 committee/group meetings, 2 community/youth/fellowship events, 5 professional/clergy activities, 7 classes/Bible studies

Williston Encounter Planning Meeting

There will be a planning meeting for 2019 Williston Encounter following worship/lunch on March 27. Please bring your ideas for our summer lunch program.

Year of Service March Our March event was helping at the Genoa Food Pantry on March 16th.

Year of Service April Our April Event will be helping at Just Pancakes at Salem Lutheran Church on April 27th. We are to arrive at Salem between 7 and 7:30 on Saturday Morning. If you have ideas for ways and places we can serve "beyond St. John", please let me know. We will also need volunteers to help schedule some of these activities. If there are areas of service you are passionate about, please consider coordinating a day of service.

Rocky Boy

Those interested in our Rocky Boy servant trip are to confirm their attendance and let me know their method of transportation by Easter Sunday: April 21st.

Christian Community Life: reported that the Food Pantry served 98 patrons, 39 families in February.

We are participating in Baumann Car Raffle and will receive tickets in April. Thanks to all those who helped at the Food Pantry on March 16th. We served 26 at the Lenten Lunch on March 13 and collected \$89.00. Discussion on where the money goes. Tim will look into last year's comments. We will be sending Easter Cards to our sunshine Friends and the residents of the Lutheran Home of Mercy. Plans are being finalized for Mom and Dad's Day gifts. We had a great Mardi Gras turnout for Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner. Donations were over \$900.00 for the youth Trip. Thank you to all who came to eat and those that helped!

We talked about the Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure on June 21st. We would love to do collections in May.

We asked Pastor to see if we could donate the 3 ½ boxes of Pancake mix left over from the Pancake Dinner to Just Pancakes.

Evangelism: reported that all members were present.

Beverly and Madelayne will finish the Easter basket and bring it to the next committee meeting. Discussion was held on having a gift bag for first time visitors. We will be looking into this further. We are in favor of hosting the Great Ohio Bicycle adventure. We will discuss more next month if approved by

the church council.

Parish Education: reported that the **Easter Egg Hunt will be April 20th** at 11:00. Helpers should arrive at 9:30 to fill eggs and set up the basement for the Easter Breakfast. We will ask the congregation to donate candy. There will be face painting and a jelly bean guessing contest before the egg hunt begins. Tammy Mazur be in charge of the Easter Egg hunt and the Easter Breakfast.

Board of Stewardship Report: reported that the focus this month is on getting someone to speak at our church rewarding the opioid crisis. Rosemarie had talked with about Nate Kehlmeier and he is available most any time. Last month Council had suggested we send invitations to our surrounding schools. Deciding a day, we thought the week of April 29 to May 4 would be a good time. It was also brought up that we could ask Taylor Beck, who works for the Oak Harbor Police Department to give her experiences in dealing with the opioid crisis after Nate talks. It was mentioned that the scouts were thinking about doing something similar for the scouts and they could be included in this discussion. Mike volunteered to get Rosemarie, Dianna, Taylor, Nate and himself together to plan the program. Will work on time and talents and the monthly volunteering Year of Service opportunities. Looking forward to the opportunities to draw in younger people.

Worship Life: reported that we have 7 youth getting confirmed on Saturday May 18. Seder Feast plans have been made. Sign up sheet are in the narthex and by each entrance. Worship assistance guidelines were revised with few changes needed. Guidelines will be posted on the Website and hard copies will be in the Narthex.

Property: reported that contract has been signed for the roof replacement and work will begin the day after Easter weather permitting. Added was Snow jack on the entire roof and additional sheeting. The parsonage water tank has been fixed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure. St John would be snack stop on the June 21. We will use this as our June Year of Service "Beyond St John" event. Event will be coordinated by Christian Community Life, Evangelism and Stewardship. The group will begin coordinating at the next committee night. Many volunteers will be needed. More to come. **Mud Hens Concessions:** We have been asked to volunteer with the concessions as a fund raiser. Due to the liability. We will decline.

Williston Get Together by Jenni Mottmiller: We have been asked if the parking lot could be used for a Williston Get together. Suggestions made were must be cleaned up, church would not be open, no table use, no alcohol. We will hold on this for more information. **Council Lenten Lunch April 11th** Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Committee Night is scheduled for Thursday April 11, 2019 at 7:00pm. Next Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday April 18, 2019 at 7:00 pm. After the Seder Feast Respectively submitted, Marcia Morgan, Council Secretary

St. John Lutheran Church
Statement of Income and Expense
As of February 28, 2019

	Full Year	Month to Date			Year to Date				
		Budget	Actual	%	Budget	Actual	%	Prior Year	% Growth
Income: *	283,000	20,923	20,701	99%	41,846	38,166	91%	41,314	-8%
* does not include memorials and other dedicated offerings * online giving IS Included.									
Expenses:									
Benevolence	38,000	2,958	2,958	100%	5,916	5,917	100%		
Board/Ministries	14,400	1,072	879	82%	2,069	1,614	78%		
Staff Salaries	96,800	7,868	7,480	95%	15,737	15,229	97%		
Staff Benefits	56,170	4,681	4,520	97%	9,362	8,676	93%		
Operating Expenses	73,130	6,185	5,600	91%	16,167	14,842	92%		
Expense Totals	278,500	22,764	21,437	94%	49,251	46,278	94%		
Income less Expenses	4,500	(1,841)	(736)		(7,405)	(8,112)			

2019 Dedicated Fund Balances

Building/Development	8,692
Activity Center Savings	276,595
Memorials	66,382
Music Fund	4,695
Endowment Fund	114,038
Roof Fund	100,586
Scholarship Tank	6,094
Scholarship Younker	4,000
Scholarship Johnson	34,869
Scholarship Parks	35,393
Youth	17,156
Other	18,285
Savings	16,793
Total	703,578



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 VANCO, a nationally
 recognized leader in church
 giving.

It's easy, it's secure and you
 can get started today!

Not online?
 No problem!
 Just fill out an authorization
 form or
 see LisaAnne
 in the office.

(Other includes Youth, Good Samaritan, Scholarship, etc.)

If you have questions, please contact the Board of Finance, Tim Titgemeyer, Dave Neuman or Kent DeWenthal.



Worship Assistants

SATURDAY 5:00pm—Worship

Acolytes

- 6 Aidan O'Brien
- 13 Shane O'Brien
- 20 Seidona Brossia
- 27 Anna Sommers

Lectors

- 6 Diane Gerkenmeyer
- 13 Shirley Berger
- 20 Tracy Orians
- 27 Gene Bihn

Ushers

- 6 Ron & Diane Gerkenmeyer, Jim & Dilly Schimming
- 13 Allen Harder, Madelayne Saionzkowski,
Carol Vargo, Alice Witt
- 20 John & Helen Meyer, Ken and Pat Sievert
- 27 Gene & Amy Bihn, Marty & Owen Schloegl

Communion Servers

- 6 Al Brown, Ron & Diane Gerkenmeyer
- 13 Doris Titgemeyer, Gene Bihn, Margaret Berger
- 20 Carol Vargo, Nancy Strohscher, Diane Gerkenmeyer
- 27 Wayne Bauman, Ron Gerkenmeyer, Amy Schloegl

Communion Set-up

- 6 Diane Gerkenmeyer
- 13 Brenda Keeley
- 20 Traci Brown
- 27 Ruth Petersen

Door Greeters

- 6 Margaret Berger
- 13 Joni Hillman
- 20 Dean Lowe
- 27 Arline Sabin

Sound/Projector Techs

- 6 Traci Brown / Amy Bihn
- 13 Phil and JJ Milbrodt
- 20 Ron Gerkenmeyer/Amy Bihn
- 27 Phil and JJ Milbrodt

SUNDAY 9:00 Worship

Acolytes

- 7 Lindsey Cashen
- 14 Tucker Fredericksen
- 21 Sophia Cashen
- 28 Jake Titgemeyer

Lectors

- 7 Roland Sandrock
- 14 Marcia Morgan
- 21 Cebie Titgemeyer
- 28 Ann Mann

Ushers

- 7 The Titgemeyer Family
- 14 Dave Neuman, Heather and Lindsey Cashen
- 21 Dan & Andy Kessler, Bob Kapp
- 28 Jeff Schimming, Dan Nelson, Jennifer Delventhal

Communion Servers

- 7 Carol Jensen, Jane Phillips, Carole Beamer
- 14 Heather Cashen, Mike and Ann Mann
- 21 Marcia Morgan, Mona Vogelbacher, Jean Fowler
- 28 Roland Sandrock, Karolyn Jansen, **Bob Kapp**

Communion Set-up

- 7 Pam LaRue
- 14 Diana Pfaff
- 21 Melissa Lammers
- 28 Janice Sandrock

Door Greeters

- 7 Melissa Lammers
- 14 Marcia Morgan
- 21 Linda Schlievert
- 28 Nancy Brittan

Sound/Projector Techs

- 7 Andy Kessler
- 14 Paul Beamer
- 21 **Need One**
- 24 Andrew Titgemeyer

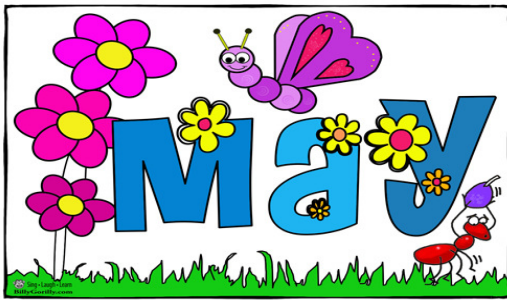
Children's Moments

- 7 Caira Goldstein
- 14 Stef Neuman
- 21 Bells
- 28 Puppets

*Thank you for
serving the Lord!
If you cannot
make your
assignment, please
make
arrangements for
a replacement then
let the office know
as soon as
possible.*

More Worship Helpers Needed! Sign up in the office today!





Worship Assistants

SATURDAY 5:00pm—Worship

Acolytes

- 4 Payton Donnelly
- 11 Anna Sommers
- 18 Shane O'Brien
- 25 Aidan O'Brien

Lectors

- 4 Diane Gerkenmeyer
- 11 Amy Schloegl
- 18 Confirmands
- 25 Nancy Strohscher

Ushers

- 4 Ron & Diane Gerkenmeyer
Jim and Dilly Schimming
- 11 Allen Harder, Madelayne Saionzkowski,
Tom Truman, Gene Bihn
- 18 Ken and Pat Sievert, John and Helen Meyer
- 25 David Lee Family

Communion Servers

- 4 Ron & Diane Gerkenmeyer, Gene Bihn
- 11 Carol Vargo, Nancy Strohscher, Amy Schloegl
- 18 Confirmands
- 25 Nancy Strohscher, Diane Gerkenmeyer, Carol Vargo

Communion Set-up

- 4 Diane Gerkenmeyer
- 11 Brenda Keeley
- 18 Dilly Schimming
- 25 Joan Truman

Door Greeters

- 4 Jack Mathews
- 11 Arline Sabin
- 18 Dean Lowe
- 25 Kris Lee

Sound/Projector Techs

- 4 Traci Brown / Amy Bihn
- 11 Phil and JJ Milbrodt
- 18 Ron Gerkenmeyer / Amy Bihn
- 25 Phil and JJ Milbrodt



SUNDAY 9:00 Worship

Acolytes

- 5 Lindsey Cashen
- 12 Megan Hoeft
- 19 Ben Myers
- 26 Jake Titgemeyer

Lectors

- 5 Mike Mann
- 12 Diana Pfaff
- 19 Jill Kao
- 26 Melissa Lammers

Ushers

- 5 Bob Bench Family
- 12 Dave Neuman, Dan Nelson, Jeff Schimming
- 19 Dan & Andy Kessler, Jennifer Delventhal
- 26 Lammers Family

Communion Servers

- 5 Carol Jensen, Jane Phillips, Carole Beamer
- 12 Karolyn Jansen, Tim Titgemeyer, Bob Kapp
- 19 Marcia Morgan, Mona Vogelbacher, Jean Fowler
- 26 Roland Sandrock, Ann Mann, Margaret Berger

Communion Set-up

- 5 Cebie Titgemeyer
- 12 Diana Pfaff
- 19 Deanna Neuman
- 26 Melissa Lammers

Door Greeters

- 5 Debbie Wehner
- 12 Karen Jeffers
- 19 Linda Schlievert
- 26 Jennifer Delventhal

Sound/Projector Techs

- 5 Andy Kessler
- 12 Paul Beamer
- 19 Tim Titgemeyer
- 26 Andrew Titgemeyer

Children's Moments

- 5 Caria Goldstein
- 12 Stef Neuman
- 19 Bells
- 26 Puppets!

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